

The Urban District Council of Littleborough



*Lancs*

# Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1920



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Jackson Bros., Littleborough.



URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF LITTLEBOROUGH.

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ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
Medical Officer of Health,

*For the year ended December 31st, 1920.*

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To the Chairman and Members of the  
Urban District Council of Littleborough.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report on the Health and Mortality of your District during the year 1920.

**Population**

The estimated population (as supplied by the County Council) of the District is 11,656. The population taken at the census (1911) was 11,697.

**Area**

The District extends over an area of 7,856 acres, and is situated at the foot of the Pennine Range, 500 feet above sea level, on the borders of Lancashire and Yorkshire.

The climate is somewhat damp but bracing.

The chief industries—the manufacture of cotton and woollen goods, iron turning and founding.

Density per acre is 1.48.

**Vital Statistics**

The number of deaths registered in the District in 1920 was 159, which is equivalent to a death rate of 13.6 per 1,000 of the estimated population.

The number of births registered was 233 which is equivalent to a birth rate of 19.9.

For 1919 the death rate was 16·3 and the birth rate 14·9, and the averages for the past ten years were: death rate 15·6, birth rate 16·2. From these figures it will be seen that the death rate is 2·0 below the average and 2·7 below last year, and the birth rate 3·7 above the average and 5·0 above last year; a most satisfactory state of affairs.

During the year 245 births were notified. 176 Visits were paid by the Health Visitor to houses where births had recently occurred; 500 following-up visits; and 90 pre-natal visits.

The infants were for the most part breast fed, a few were bottle fed and a small number were fed both on breast and bottle.

### Infant Deaths

There have been 15 deaths under 1 year, which is equivalent to a death rate of 64 per 1,000 net births, against 15 deaths and a rate of 85 in 1919—a decrease of 21 per 1,000 births.

The average for the past 10 years was 103.

Valuable advice and supervision has been given by the Health Visitor under the Notification of Births Act (1907). This was taken over by the County Council in the latter part of the year.

Premature birth, etc., has been responsible for 4 deaths as compared with 8 in 1919.

Valuable assistance continues to be given by the District and C.A. Nurses.

### Epidemic and Phthisis Death Rate

		1920	1919	average past 10 years
Epidemic Death Rate	...	0·25	0·26	0·58
Phthisis Death Rate	...	0·42	0·62	0·89

### Infectious Diseases

35 Cases of infectious diseases were notified during the year against 68 in 1919.

			1919	1920
Scarlet Fever	...	...	1	23
Diphtheria and Memb. Croup	...	...	9	2
Enteric Fever	...	...	2	Nil
Erysipelas	...	...	5	4
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	Nil	2
Measles and German Measles	...	...	51	not notifiable
Puerperal Fever	...	...	Nil	2
Poliomyelitis	...	...	Nil	1
Acute Pneumonia	...	...	Nil	1

### **Scarlet Fever**

Of the 23 cases of this disease:

4	occurred in	May
2	"	" June
4	"	" July
2	"	" August
8	"	" October
2	"	" November
1	"	" December

20 Cases were treated at the Isolation Hospital. 1 Case died.

### **Diphtheria and Membranous Croup**

2 Cases occurred.

### **Enteric Fever**

No cases.

### **Ophthalmia Neonatorum**

2 Cases occurred.

### **Measels and German Measles**

Ceased to be notifiable on January 1, 1920, and very few cases came to notice.

### **Puerperal Fever**

2 Cases occurred.

### **Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis**

One case was notified but in the light of subsequent events was judged to be a case of Tuberculosis.

### **Whooping Cough**

Very few cases.

### **Chicken Pox**

A few cases occurred throughout the year.

I am chiefly indebted for the information regarding unnotifiable diseases to the Returns of Sickness in Schools, supplied to me by the School Attendance Officer.

## **Influenza**

There was no epidemic of this disease during the year. A few cases occurred and 3 deaths were notified.

## **Smallpox**

No cases.

## **Diarrhœa**

Very few cases came under notice. The wet weather throughout the summer and the efficient manner in which scavenging was carried out being largely accountable for this. The printed instructions which are issued at the commencement of the summer have been of great value.

## **Isolation Hospital**

The two large wards are reserved for Scarlet Fever, and the two small ones for Diphtheria and Enteric, but not both at the same time.

Arrangements have been made with the Rochdale Corporation to treat cases of Infectious Diseases (excepting Smallpox) at the Marland Fever Hospital, when the Isolation Hospital at Hollingworth is full, or the Wards are not available for their treatment.

In case of an outbreak of Smallpox in the District, arrangements have been made for the removal of all cases to the Bury and District Joint Board's Hospital.

## **Tuberculosis**

There were 7 deaths from Tuberculosis, 5 of which were due to Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 2 to other Tuberculous diseases, against 7 and 4 respectively in 1919. There were 38 notifications, 19 of which were new cases and 19 duplicate notifications, which were chiefly comprised of notifications of admission and discharge of patients in Sanatoria. Of the new cases (19) 14 were Pulmonary and 5 other Tuberculous Diseases.

By arrangement with the Registrar, deaths from Tuberculosis and other Infectious Diseases are notified on registration so as to facilitate the disinfection of the houses where deaths have occurred.

In case of removals, the rooms, etc., are thoroughly disinfected.

Of the cases suffering from Tuberculosis: 5 were cotton operatives, 2 house duties, 1 general labourer, 1 no occupation, 2 scholars, 1 house painter, 1 box maker, 1 discharged soldier, 1 rubber-heel maker, 1 labourer (pottery works), 1 flannelette worker, 1 clerk, and 1 office porter.

The sputum was examined in 8 cases, 6 of which gave a positive result.

## Housing Acts

103 Houses have been inspected in various parts of the District.

Through Houses	...	...	...	...	...	63
Houses not through, but window opening at back	...	...	...	...	...	15
Back-to-back Houses	...	...	...	...	...	25

## Rooms

2 Houses had	...	...	...	...	6 or more rooms
30	"	...	...	...	5 rooms
5	"	...	...	...	4 rooms
58	"	...	...	...	3 rooms
3	"	...	...	...	2 rooms
5	"	...	...	...	1 room

These houses were occupied by 375 persons, an average of 3.64 per house. There was no overcrowding.

The drainage of the various properties is all connected to the sewer.

All the houses had a satisfactory supply of water, 42 being supplied with Corporation water and 61 by private supplies.

During the inspection the following defects were found:

Defective drain inlets	...	...	...	...	1
" rainwater pipes	...	...	...	...	13
" waste pipes	...	...	...	...	4
" eaves-troughing	...	...	...	...	1
Rainwater pipes connected direct	...	...	...	...	10
Damp walls	...	...	...	...	39
Defective windows or to be made to open...	...	...	...	...	34
" roofs	...	...	...	...	27
" plastering	...	...	...	...	42
" floors	...	...	...	...	10
" doors	...	...	...	...	22
" stairs	...	...	...	...	2
" ashplaces	...	...	...	...	8
" closets...	...	...	...	...	11
" fireplaces	...	...	...	...	7
" kitchen ranges	...	...	...	...	15
" coal places	...	...	...	...	3
" W.W.C. Tippers	...	...	...	...	4
" slopstone	...	...	...	...	1

Defects remedied under the Housing Acts:

Branch drains provided	...	...	...	...	4
Drains opened, cleansed, and repaired	...	...	...	...	14
Rainwater pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	2
Rainwater pipes disconnected from drain...	...	...	...	...	6
Drain inlets repaired	...	...	...	...	2
Gullies provided	...	...	...	...	7
Ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	3
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	21
Coal shoots repaired	...	...	...	...	2

## Defects remedied excluding those done under the Housing Acts:

Main drains provided or reconstructed	...	3
Branch " "	...	39
Drains opened, cleansed, and repaired	...	39
Drain inlets repaired	... ..	6
Rainwater pipes repaired	... ..	16
Rainwater pipes disconnected from drain...		7
Gullies provided	... ..	29
Man hole provided	... ..	1
Wastepipes provided	... ..	6
Roofs repaired	... ..	7
Eaves-troughings repaired	... ..	8
Floor repaired	... ..	1
Walls repaired	... ..	4
Plastering repaired	... ..	3
Coal place repaired	... ..	1
Manure pit repaired	... ..	1
Ashplaces repaired	... ..	14
Closets repaired...	... ..	7
Water closets provided	... ..	28
Pail closet provided	... ..	1
Pail closets abolished	... ..	16
Ashbin provided	... ..	1
Baths provided	... ..	5
Lavatory basins provided	... ..	6
Waste sink provided	... ..	1
Corporation water provided	... ..	1
Ventilating shafts to drain provided	...	8
Windows repaired or made to open...	...	6
Accumulation of refuse removed	... ..	2

**Inhabited Houses**

The number of inhabited houses at the last census was 2,972, and there were 115 unoccupied. Since then there have been 148 houses built. 4 have been built during the year.

All houses in which infectious diseases have occurred, and all houses in which Phthisis cases have died or from which they have been removed, have been disinfected by spraying and fumigating with Formaldehyde. 30 Rooms and 443 articles of bedding, clothing, etc., have been disinfected after cases of ordinary infectious disease, and 22 rooms and 210 articles of bedding, etc., after death or removal of Phthisis cases, etc.

64 Notices have been sent to Schoolmasters and Sunday School Secretaries informing them of children suffering from infectious diseases and prohibiting them from attending School.

6 Library books have been destroyed.

**Water Supply**

The District generally is supplied by the Rochdale Corporation with water which has been satisfactory both as regards quality and quantity. A number of houses in the District are supplied with water from private supplies.

## **Factories**

There are 75 Factories on the register. No complaints have been received from the Factory Inspector during the year, but the sanitary accommodation at one factory has been remedied on complaint of the Factory Inspector which was received at the end of the previous year. During the year water closets have been erected at two factories in lieu of the existing pail closets.

## **Workshops**

There are 48 on the Register. On being visited they have been found satisfactory with one exception. In this case notice has been given to provide a fresh workshop, and the matter is receiving attention.

## **Retail Bakehouses**

There are 14 on the register. A reasonable standard of cleanliness has been maintained without resort to the service of any notice. There are no underground bakehouses in the District.

## **Common Lodging Houses**

There are two in the District, both of which have been regularly visited.

## **Slaughter Houses**

There are 7 registered slaughter houses on the register. All have been regularly inspected and are in as satisfactory condition as can be expected under the existing circumstances.

## **Butchers' Shops, etc.**

These have been regularly inspected. 50 lbs of beef and 33 lbs of mutton have been condemned and destroyed as unfit for food.

## **Offensive Trades**

There are 6 in number : 3 fellmongers, 1 tripe boiler, 1 gut scraper, and 1 glue maker. All have been inspected and found satisfactory.

## **Cowsheds and Farm Buildings**

There are 93 in the District, and 72 cowkeepers. A majority of them are in good repair.

In accordance with the resolution of the Council in October, 1915, of permitting the slaughter of pigs on unlicensed premises, a number of persons have availed themselves of the privilege.

Samples of milk for analysis under the Food and Drugs Acts are taken by the Police Authority.

### **Milk Supply**

The milk supply has been sufficient for the population during the year.

### **Milk (Mothers and Children's) Order, 1918**

Milk has been supplied under this Order in several necessitous cases, This has now been taken over by the County Council.

### **Canal Boats**

40 Boats have been inspected, and were found to be in conformity with the Acts and Regulations.

### **Scavenging**

Refuse is removed to the tips in the District. There is no destructor, the night-soil being disposed of to farmers in the District, where the land is suitable.

### **Closet and Ashplace Accommodation**

There are now 1,601 pail closets, 462 water closets, and 395 waste water closets; 1,787 ashtubs housed in ashplaces with doors and coverings, and 80 ashbins.

During the year:

- 43 water closets have been erected
- 1 pail closet has been erected
- 4 ashtubs provided
- 1 ashbin provided
- 16 pail closets abolished.

### **Sewage and Drainage**

The sewage is treated at the Sewage Works by precipitation and filtration. All the samples taken have been classed as satisfactory.

### **Smoke**

80 Observations, 71 of half hour and 9 of one hour's duration have been made, 3 of which exceeded the time limit fixed by the Council (six minutes in the hour. 3 Statutory Notices have been served on firms in respect to the emission of black smoke.

### **Petroleum Acts**

During the year 4 licenses have been granted and 3 licenses renewed under the above Acts.

I should like to express my appreciation of the efficient assistance given me by Mr. Wild, Mr. Williamson, and Mr. George F. Wild.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

J. T. R. MACGILL, M.B., Ch.B.,  
M.O.H.

May 14th, 1921.

# **Vital Statistics for 1920**

Deaths						Males	Females
All causes	...	...	...	...	...	79	80
Scarlet Fever...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	—	3
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	3	2
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
Cancer, malignant disease...	...	...	...	...	...	5	4
Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	3
Organic Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	5	5
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	13	5
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	4	4
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Alcoholism	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	...	...	...	...	...	5	4
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Parturition, apart from puerperal fever...	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
Congenital debility, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	4	2
Violence, apart from suicide	...	...	...	...	...	4	1
Other defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	28	39
Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age	...	...	...	...	...	9	6
Total Births: Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	112	109
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	7	5
Population for birth and death rates	...	...	...	...	...	...	11,656
Birth Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	19.9
Death Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	13.6
Epidemic Death Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.25
Phthisis Death Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.42
Infant Death Rate per 1,000 births	...	...	...	...	...	...	64

*Administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901.*

**1.—Inspection**

			Number of Inspections	Written Notices
Factories	...	...	21	—
Workshops	...	...	76	1
			<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	...	97		1

**2.—Defects Found and Remedied**

				*Number of Defects Found	Remedied
Overcrowding	...	...	...	1	—
Sanitary accommodation unsuitable or defective	...	...	...	—	1
				<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	...	1		1	1

**3.—Home Work**

Outworkers' Lists, Section 107 :—  
Lists received from employers—*nil*.

**4.—Registered Workshops**

Retail Bakehouses	...	...	...	14
Boot and Shoe	...	...	...	9
Cloggers	...	...	...	7
Plumbers	...	...	...	6
Joiners	...	...	...	4
Dressmakers	...	...	...	4
Milliners	...	...	...	3
Tailors	...	...	...	3
Tinplate Workers	...	...	...	3
Blacksmiths	...	...	...	3
Waste Dealer	...	...	...	1
Cabinet Maker	...	...	...	1
Rug Manufacturer	...	...	...	1
Soda Manufacturer	...	...	...	1
Wheelwright	...	...	...	1
Saddler	...	...	...	1

Total number of Workshops on Register... 62

**5.—Other Matters**

Action taken in matters referred by  
H.M. Inspector as remediable under  
Public Health Acts, but not under  
the Factory and Workshop Act. { Notified by H.M. Inspector... nil  
Reports (of action taken)  
sent to H.M. Inspector ... 1